

Senate Resolution No. 36

Introduced by Senator Ortiz

Relative to Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecological cancers, and the reported incidence of ovarian cancer is increasing over time; and

WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among United States women; and

WHEREAS, All women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at higher risk; and

WHEREAS, The Pap smear is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not to detect ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test used for the early detection of ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, Many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer can often include persistent abdominal pressure, bloating, abnormal bleeding, and unexplained weight loss or gain, among several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases; and

WHEREAS, Due to lack of a reliable early screening test, 75 percent of ovarian cancer cases are detected at an advanced stage, when the five-year survival rate is only 25 percent, a much lower rate than for many other cancers; and

WHEREAS, If diagnosed and treated at an early stage before the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is potentially less costly, and the five-year survival rate is as high as 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, There are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and play an important role in the prevention of the disease; and

WHEREAS, Awareness and early recognition of ovarian cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's lives; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has responded to the need for increased education and information about these cancers and in 1997 created the Gynecologic Cancer Information Program within the State Department of Health Services' Office of Women's Health to produce and distribute patient education materials; and

WHEREAS, The State of California currently operates the Cancer Research Program within the State Department of Health Services, which was established in 1998 and provides critical funds for innovative and needed cancer research in California with an emphasis on gender-specific cancers, such as ovarian, cervical, and prostate cancers; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature has, pursuant to Resolution Chapter 132 of the Statutes of 1999 (SCR 46), designated the month of September of every year as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month throughout the State of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate of the State of California hereby recognizes September 2006 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month throughout California, and encourages and promotes the efforts of the people and the health care practitioners of the state to increase their awareness of this disease and to educate themselves about its early detection and prevention, the risk factors involved in its development, and the early warning symptoms and signs thereof; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 36 read and adopted by the Senate August 31, 2006.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate